



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, TRADE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Division of Animal Health

April 10, 2020

Guidance for Essential and Nonessential Auction Operations

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection wants to provide clarification to auction operations and how they are affected under the [Safer at Home order](#), which closed nonessential businesses statewide.

Auctions that are *essential* businesses/operations are permitted to continue, but they should take place virtually or online to the greatest extent possible. In-person auctions must be limited to bidders only, and pickup of goods must be staggered. The [Department of Health Services \(DHS\) guidelines for businesses](#) must be followed, and there must be social distancing of at least 6 feet between all individuals when possible.

Essential auctions/operations include:

- Livestock market barns for purpose of food animal production.
- Herd dispersal, where a farm is selling its livestock
- Estate auctions of farms with livestock
- Estate auctions of farms without livestock, but only to the extent necessary to preserve the value of the farm's inventory.
- Estate auctions of non-farms, but only if an auction is necessary to preserve the value of the property.

Nonessential auctions may continue only as virtual or online auctions. All preparations, meetings, inventory review and consumer preview of goods must occur virtually. After a virtual or online auction, the auctioneer or auction company may deliver or mail the goods if it can be done by one

person in a room or confined space, including a car or truck. Delivery and parcel services cannot require a signature by the recipient.

Other services or activities requiring more than one person may only continue virtually or by phone. Curbside pickup or other forms of pickup by the winning bidder are prohibited. This is in line with the parameters of minimum basic operations that apply to all nonessential businesses or operations.

Nonessential auctions/operations include:

- Agricultural equipment
- Animal auctions for competition (e.g. show pigs)
- Consignment sales
- Antiques and collectibles
- Art
- Autos and motorcycles
- Boats and personal watercraft
- Coins and currency
- Collector cars and vintage equipment
- Government surplus property and seizures
- Heavy equipment and construction machinery
- Household goods
- Industrial and manufacturing equipment
- Intellectual property
- Jewelry
- Off-road and recreational vehicles
- Restaurant equipment
- Tools
- Trucks, trailers and transportation related equipment



Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

Division of Food and Recreational Safety

2811 Agriculture Dr., P.O. Box 8911, Madison, WI 53708

<https://www.datcp.wi.gov>